



Address all communications for these columns to the Department Editor, Mrs. J. Silone Yates
President National Association of Colored Women 2122 Tracy Ave Kansas City, Mo.

By Prof. J. Dallas Bowser.
(Read before the Kansas City Peace Meeting.)

Fire, water, famine, pestilence, war, are the calamities that destroy or deteriorate mankind. A cataclysm of water has already destroyed our world, a holocaust of fire is prophesied to destroy it in its last days. Famine and pestilence have slain their millions in China and British India. But grim-visaged war is all of these, and more. It is famine and fire and flood, and pestilence, and murder, and arson, and fraud. It is treachery and hypocrisy. It substitutes curses for pity; it maims hearts as well as hands. It arrays brother against brother. It leaves scars of the conscience and embittered memories of the soul. Bullets respect not beauty. They tear out the eye and shatter the jaw and rend the cheek. War is the parent of armies; armies make debts and taxes; debts and taxes make paupers; paupers make thieves and highwaymen. The most successful war leaves nations poorer and always more profligate. Great warriors, like great earthquakes, are always remembered for the mischief they have done. All great warriors unite in denouncing war as the trade of barbarians, which mends but few and spoils the multitude; involving violence, blood, rapine, fraud; everything that can deform the character, alter the nature and debase the name of man.

When, nearly 450 years ago, Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, in order to possess himself of the wealth of that country, invited the Inca to a feast, and while his guest was at the table seized him and loaded him with chains; and when the Inca offered for his release to fill the room in which he was confined with vessels of gold; when Pizarro, after accepting the treasures, cruelly put the Inca to death, the civilized world stood aghast at his treachery. Spanish cruelty became a byword for all Christian nations, and for generations our school geographies have held up to scornful gaze of American youth the Judasaical barbarities of Pizarro.

Yet how far has the world progressed in the passing centuries?

To capture Aguineldo Gen. Frederick Funston resorted to forged dispatches and pretensions of friendship worthy only of Pizarro or Judas Iscariot. He dared not approach his enemy in the open, but must necessarily go skulking about in the disguise of a friend. A pretty example of consistency for the youth of our land to imitate! Apologize as our statesmen may for Funston's act, he will be regarded in the minds of thousands of his countrymen as a modern Pizarro, treacherous and cruel.

No wonder that Fielding might exclaim that war is the sink of all injustice, and Bovee that "war involves a greater or less relapse into barbarism which may save the State, but destroys the citizen."

It was 2,000 years ago that King Herod, becoming angry at the escape of the young child Jesus, slew all the two-year-old children and under that were in Bethlehem and all the coasts thereof, hoping that among them might be the young Nazarene. The verdict of Christendom has been that Herod was a barbarian and a butcher.

Yet in this year of grace 1902 Gen. Jacob H. Smith, because he gave orders to make of the Island of Samar a howling wilderness and to kill all male inhabitants over the age of ten years, is held up to the admiring gaze of the youth of our land as a fine type of American soldier.

If the creed of our modern militarism be true, then the great Napoleon was right when he said: "The worse the man, the better the soldier; if soldiers be not corrupt, they ought to be made so." Yet we sent our armies to the Philippines to save their souls from the damnation of the Catholic Church. How we did it appears further in the report of the secretary of the Batangas Provinces from diseases incident to the late war the population of the provinces had been reduced from 300,000 to 200,000. When

it becomes necessary for a civilized people, so-called, to cause the death of over 30 per cent. of a people, a moral question arises whether it would not have been better for their souls as well as for their temporal salvation to have left the Filipinos to the mercy of their Spanish masters.

It is a sad commentary on our boasted civilization and religion that America and England, for greed and conquest, should send great armies to far-off lands to devastate them with fire and sword under the pretense of establishing a more humane form of government.

Reconcentrado camps under Weyler in Cuba called out the just indignation of mankind. But are they better in Southern Africa, where the Boers are driven from their homes, or in the Philippines, where the inhabitants over ten years of age are singled out for slaughter? Should forgery which throws a man in prison in civil life make a hero of the forger in the Philippines?

War is only splendid murder. It breaks to stones every law in the Decalogue. Thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not lie. Law is not only legalized murder; it is legalized theft. It is legalized arson. When Sherman made his famous march from Atlanta to the sea he cut a swath 60 miles wide, destroying plantations and, like leviathan locusts, eating all the stock and grain, pilfering the houses of hoarded treasures of money and jewelry, burning towns, and everywhere leaving ruin in the wake of his army. The acclaim of the North made him the apotheosis of the patriot. Sherman's own epitomized judgment of the invasion was that "War is hell."

Sheridan's Ride is a classic in our literature, as Sherman wears a crown in the galaxy of the world's great heroes. Yet in the fall of 1864, hearing that one of his lieutenants had been murdered, he ordered all the houses within an area of five miles to be burned. It was not a moral question with Sheridan whether he alleged murderer lived within the prescribed territory or whether it was fair that hundreds of innocent women and children should be turned out of doors in the midst of an approaching winter. It was war, and the more hellish war could be made the better.

It was Seneca who said that "in war varice and cruelty know no bounds; barbarities are authorized by decrees of the Senate and votes of the people; and norms, forbidden in private persons are ordered and sanctioned by legislators. Things which, if a man had done in his private capacity he would have said for with his life; the very same things we extol to the skies when men lo them with their regimentals on their jacks."

It was Burke who said: "War suspends the rules of moral obligation, and what is long suspended is in danger of being totally abrogated. Civil wars strike deepest of all into the manners of the people. They vitiate their politics; they corrupt their morals; they pervert even the natural taste and relish of equity and justice. By teaching us to consider our fellow-creatures in a hostile light, the whole body of our nation becomes gradually less dear to us. The very names of affection and kindred, which were the bond of charity whilst we agreed, become new incentives to hatred and revenge when the communion of our country is dissolved."

The civil war in the United States has been over 37 years. Yet with all our preaching ours is still a nation of barbaric impulses and tendencies. Sectional bitterness is still a smoldering volcano. Brotherhood is a caprice buffeted about by caste prejudice and race hatreds. Everywhere are seen the scars of fratricidal hate and internecine rancor. Seventy-five per cent. of our citizens are in sentiment the members of an organized mob which a spark could arouse to burn or kill by barbaric instrumentalities. The mad speculators of that struggle are still sowing dragon's teeth

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The Berean Baptist Sunday School will give their first picnic of the season at

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The Excelsior Business Club invites their friends to the Grand Opening of their Pleasure Park [formerly known as Madre's Park] Friday May 30, Good Music.

in our marts of trade. The uplift of righteousness had scarce begun when our nation, with greed for empire, seized with a mere pretext the Hawaiian Islands and deposed the queen.

Yet another day and our descent upon the Antilles in the name of humanity completes the farce of our scheme of benevolence.

And the end in the Philippines may yet be far off.

No! a thousand times, no! War is not a moral uplifting nor even a necessary evil.

Benjamin Franklin declared that there never had been a good war nor a bad peace.

"Dost thou not know the fate of soldiers?"

They're but Ambition's tools to cut a way

To her unlawful ends; and when they're worn,

Hacked, hewn with constant service, thrown aside,

To rust in peace and rot in hospitals."

The author of the excellent article, "What Art Is For," found in these columns May 17, is Miss Lottie Wilson, Washington, D. C.—Studio 806 M St.

Reports of successful peace meetings held under the auspices of various clubs of the N. A. C. W., have come from Chicago, Boston, New Bedford, Newport, New Haven, Norwich and Kansas City.

The programs rendered were instructive and interesting and the resolutions sent out by the president of the International Council of Women, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Indianapolis, Ind., were adopted.

Watson's Park.

Washington's Great Pleasure Resort, located on Glen Echo Railroad, Md., now open for the season, and it is hoped that every person will pay one visit to the Park this season as there has been many improvements made for your enjoyment. All churches, social clubs and associations are invited to spend their outing this summer at Watson's Park. Special car can be chartered Direct for the Park and ordered back when wanted. Cars for every day service. Take Chevy Chase for the Park. Those driving take Conduit to Turners and turn to the right. For further information apply to A. D. WATSON, 2025 L Street, N. W.

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